

**I claim:**

1. A method of latching a door, comprising the steps of:

retaining pivotally a handle in the door, said handle having a locking portion on one end and a handle portion on the other end thereof;

attaching a handle latch to a mounting surface adjacent the door, said handle latch being structured to receive said locking portion;

biasing said handle such that said locking portion is retained in said handle latch; and

moving said handle axially and pivoting said handle to remove said locking portion from said handle latch.

2. The method of latching a door of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

retaining said handle with a locking mounting plate on one side of the door and a mounting plate on the other side of the door.

3. The method of latching a door of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

securing a locking key to said handle, forming a lock slot in said locking mounting plate to receive said locking key.

4. The method of latching a door of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

biasing said handle with a spring.

5. The method of latching a door of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing a second mounting plate that is retained adjacent said locking mounting plate.

6. The method of latching a door of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

inserting a first handle bearing into said mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle; and

inserting a second handle bearing into said second mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle.

7. The method of latching a door of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing said handle latch with an extension slot that is sized to receive a latch extension formed on an end of said locking portion.

8. A method of latching a door, comprising the steps of:

providing a handle having a locking portion on one end and a handle portion on the other end thereof;

retaining said handle pivotally with a locking mounting plate on one side of the door and a mounting plate on the other side of the door;

attaching a handle latch to a mounting surface adjacent the door, said handle latch being structured to receive said locking portion;

biasing said handle such that said locking portion is retained in said handle latch; and

moving said handle axially and pivoting said handle to remove said locking portion from said handle latch.

9. The method of latching a door of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

securing a locking key to said handle, forming a lock slot in said locking mounting plate to receive said locking key.

10. The method of latching a door of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

biasing said handle with a spring.

11. The method of latching a door of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

providing a second mounting plate that is retained adjacent said locking mounting plate.

12. The method of latching a door of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

inserting a first handle bearing into said mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle; and

inserting a second handle bearing into said second mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle.

13. The method of latching a door of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

providing said handle latch with an extension slot that is sized to receive a latch extension formed on an end of said locking portion.

14. A method of latching a sliding door, comprising the steps of:

retaining pivotally a handle in the sliding door, said handle having a locking portion on one end and a handle portion on the other end thereof;

attaching a handle latch to a mounting surface adjacent the door, said handle latch being structured to receive said locking portion;

biasing said handle such that said locking portion is retained in said handle latch; and

pivoting said handle such that said locking portion is removed from said handle latch and moving the sliding door away from said handle latch.

15. The method of latching a sliding door of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

retaining said handle with a first mounting plate on one side of the door and a second mounting plate on the other side of the door.

16. The method of latching a sliding door of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

biasing said handle with a torsion spring, retaining at least one end of said torsion spring in one of said mounting plates.

17. The method of latching a sliding door of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

inserting a first handle bearing into said first mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle; and

inserting a second handle bearing into said second mounting plate to pivotally retain said handle.

18. The method of latching a sliding door of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

providing said handle latch with an extension slot that is sized to receive said locking portion.

19. The method of latching a sliding door of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

providing an opposing sliding door for said mounting surface.